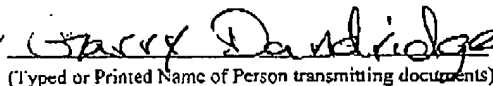


PATENT  
Docket No. 297912003900

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "FACSIMILE"

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(Signature of Person transmitting documents)  
(Typed or Printed Name of Person transmitting documents)#8  
Election  
S. Byer  
12/9/02

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

PLETZER et al.

Serial No.: 09/826,267

Filing Date: April 4, 2001

For: APPARATUS AND TECHNIQUE FOR  
UNIFORM LOADING OF  
ENDOLUMINAL PROSTHESIS

Examiner: D. Willse

Group Art Unit: 3738

## RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 6, 2002 for which a response is due on December 6, 2002.

Applicants hereby elect Group II (claims 17-22), without traverse. Applicant expressly reserves his/her right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file a divisional application directed to the nonelected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming priority from this application.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

oc-247135

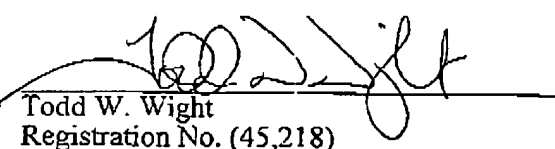
Applicant requests examination of the elected subject matter on the merits.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 297912003900. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 4, 2002

By:

  
Todd W. Wight  
Registration No. (45,218)

Morrison & Foerster LLP  
19900 MacArthur Boulevard  
Suite 1200  
Irvine, California 92612-2445  
Telephone: (949) 251-7189  
Facsimile: (949) 251-0900